

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO DEA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJ: STATEMENT BY POPE PAUL VI

HQS PLS REPEAT FOR DEA WORLDWIDE AND ALL DOMESTIC OFFICES FROM  
ADMINISTRATOR BENSINGER.

1. ON NOVEMBER 20, 1976, MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON NARCOTICS ABUSE AND CONTROL, CHAIRED BY THE HONORABLE LESTER  
WLFF ADMINISTRATOR PEPER B. BENSINGER, DEA STAFF AND CONGRESSIONAL  
STAFF, HAD A PRIVATE AUDIENCE WITH POPE PAUL VI AT HIS PRIVATE  
QUARTERS IN THE VATICAN.

2. CHAIRMAN WOLFF READ A STATEMENT TO THE HOLY FATHER EXPLAINING  
THE MISSION OF THE GROUP, AND ASKING THE HOLY FATHER TO ONCE  
AGAIN REITERATE A STRONG STAND AGAINST DRUG ABUSE IN THE WORLD.

3. THE HOLY FATHER THEN READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO THE  
AUDIENCE QUOTE DEAR FRIENDS, WE SEND A CONRDIAL WELCOME TO ALL  
OF YOU WHO MAKE UP A UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION ON  
DRUG ABUSE AND CONTROL. CONVINCED AS WE ARE OF THE MANY  
DELETERIOUS EFFECTS OF NARCOTIS ON SOCIETY, WE HAVE ON VARIOUS  
OCCASIONS SPOKEN ON THIS TOPIC. AND TODAY WE WISH TO EXPRESS  
OUR SINCERE ENCOURAGEMENT OF YOUR EFFORTS DIRECTED AT THE EX-  
TIRPATION OF DRUG ABUSE. THIS REALITY OF OUR DAY HAS TRULY  
RAVAGED SOCIETY, AND IN PARTICULAR OUR YOUTH. AT STAKE IS THE  
VERY QUESTION OF HUMAN DIGNITY. THE PROBLEM IS ONE OF MULTIPLE  
HIMAN DIMENSIONS, IN WHICH THE PERSON IS PROFOUNDLY AFFECTED  
IN THE EXERCISE OF INTELLECT AND WILL, IN THE FULFILMENT OF HIS  
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OR HER TRUE ROLE AS A HUMAN BEING, AND FINALLY IN THE ATTAINMENT

OF A HIGH SPIRITUAL DESTINY. FOR THESE REASONS WE WILLINGLY LEND OUR SUPPORT TO THE ENDEAVORS THAT ARE AIMED AT COMBATTING THIS EVIL AND AT PROVIDING THOSE SERVICES THAT ARE SO NECESSARY FOR REHABILITATION. LIKEWISE DESERVING OF ATTENTION ARE THE IMPORTANT FACTORS OF PREVENTION AND TIMELY EDUCATION. AS THE ROOTS OF THE WHOLE COMPLEX PROBLEM ARE STUDIED, THERE EMERGES MORE CLEARLY THAN EVER THE NEED FOR SEVERE LEGAL MEASURES TO BE TAKEN AGAINST THOSE WHO TRAFFIC SYSTEMATICALLY IN DRUGS FOR THE SAKE OF PROFIT. WE HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED THE CONVICTION THAT THE NARCOTIC PROBLEM WOULD NOT EXIST "AT LEAST IN ITS PRESENT PROPORTION IF THERE DID NOT ALSO EXIST A WHOLE NETWORK OF RESPONSIBLE CONSPIRATORS: THE CLANDESTINE PRODUCERS AND AND DRUG PEDDLERS". AND IN OUR OWN BICENTENNIAL MESSAGE TO THE AMERICAN BISHOP WE REITERATED THE "HOPE THAT THE IMMENSE FORCES OF GOOD WOULD EXERT PRESSURE AGAINST THE UNWORTHY ACTIVITIES OF THOSE WHO ARE GREATLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CORRUPTION OF YOUTH." OF SUPREME IMPORTANCE IS THE MOBILIZATION OF PUBLIC OPINION, COUPLED WITH THE WIDE DIFFUSION OF ACCURATE INFORMATION ON THE MANY RAMIFICATIONS OF DRUG ABUSE. THE TIME HAS COME TO UNITE ALL THE POWERS AT OUR DISPOSAL, IN ORDER TO PUT AN END TO THIS SCOURGE THAT IS SUCH A REAL DANGER FOR THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY. WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE EVER MORE EFFECTIVELY TO COORDINATE YOUR EFFORTS WITH THOSE BEING MADE OUTSIDE YOUR OWN COUNTRY. MAY THE COMBINED FORCES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF THIS GENERATION BE REMEMBERED AS HISTORY RECORDS THE INCESSANT STRUGGLE FOR TRUE HUMAN DIGNITY. AND BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT HUMAN EFFORTS ARE INSUFFICIENT IN THEMSELVES, WE ASK ALMIGHTY GOD TO BESTOW HIS LIGHT AND STRENGTH ON YOU AND ALL WHO ARE WORKING FOR THIS GREAT CAUSE UNQUOTE.

4. AFTER THE STATEMENT, THE HOLY FATHER PERSONALLY MET CHAIRMAN WOLFF, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE AND ADMINISTRATOR BENSINGER AND SAID QUOTE YOU HAVE ALL OF THE FORCES NEEDED (TO FIGHT DRUG ABUSE) ASSEMBLED HERE UNQUOTE. ADMINISTRATOR BENSINGER THEN REPLIED TO THE HOLY FATHER QUOTE THE HOLY FATHER'S VOICE IS A FORCE THAT IS OF OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE TO THE WORLD, AND OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO THE POLICE FIGHTING IN THIS STRUGGLE UNQUOTE.

5. ALL DEA EMPLOYEES SHOULD BE GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY THE STRONG UNCLASSIFIED

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STATEMENT MADE BY THE HOLY FATHER, CONDEMNING DRUG ABUSE IN THE WORLD, AND THE OFFERING OF HIS PERSONAL ASSISTANCE.

6. DEA IS VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF CHAIRMAN WOLFF AND THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON NARCOTICS ABUSE AND CONTROL DURING THEIR ENTIRE FACT-FINDING MISSION THROUGHOUT EUROPE AND THE NEAR EAST. THEIR EFFORTS HAVE ASSISTED NOT ONLY THIS AGENCY, BUT THE ENTIRE U.S. GOVERNMENT EFFORT IN WORLDWIDE NARCOTICS CONTROL. BEAUDRY

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